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Fall 2014

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PANTHER PRESS

PANTHER BATTALION, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA



UNI ROTC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

Professor of Military Science Corner

The Panther Battalion had an incredible fall semester beginning with a revamped Leadership Training Exercise (LTX) in September at Camp Ingawanis. Our training focus has moved away from tactics centric to critical thinking and decision making in adverse conditions. Tactics play a role, but it is only one of our means to achieve the end state of a critically thinking and adaptable leader. In October all schools from Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas competed in Ranger Challenge at Camp Dodge, IA with the UNI team placing in the top third of all teams. This was the highest placement in four years for our UNI Ranger Challenge Team. We also had thirteen Cadets compete and awarded the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (seven Gold, and six Silver) at Iowa State. This year UNI was awarded second place in the Brigade (42 programs) for recruiting and retention.

We have a busy spring semester, starting with our Military Ball being hosted in Dubuque, IA on 7 March. Additional details and reservation requirements are included in this newsletter. Last year was the second largest, let's make the 2015 Ball the largest in our program's history. UNI is planning the Combined Leadership Training Exercise (CLTX) at Camp Dodge for all schools in Iowa and Nebraska which occurs in April. The seniors went through the entire Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) to develop the order and are continue to plan and prepare for this critical training exercise.

The Panther Battalion will train hard and continue to excel this semester as we prepare our Cadets for Cadet Summer Training (CST). Our juniors will attend Cadet Leaders Training (CLT) and select freshman and sophomores will attend Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) at Fort Knox this summer. Cadets, continue to stay focused on their academics and train well.

MOLON LABE!

LTC Glen P. Keith

Panther Battalion Military Dining Out March 7th, 2015

Dubuque Golf & Country Club; Dubuque, IA
\$35 per ticket, RSVP at <https://www.dbq.edu/ecommerce>
or call SFC Sturdivant (719) 237-2056 / udrotc@dbq.edu

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Leadership Training Exercise

Fall 2014



Cadets complete the squad crucible during the LTX

The Panther Battalion completed their first training exercise of the Fall semester from 26-28 September. The Leadership Training Exercise (LTX) was a weekend event focusing on leadership, land navigation, squad tactical exercises (STX), operation orders and teamwork. Cadets from the University of Northern Iowa and University of Dubuque gathered at Camp Ingawanis in Waverly, IA on Friday, 26 September, to issue the operation order and prepare for both day and night land navigation. Early Saturday morning the cadets gathered their gear for a long day of training. Senior cadets led classes in first aid, rules of engagement, and cultural awareness to prepare the MSIII, MSII, MSI level cadets for follow on training. After the classes were complete MSIII leadership took control of their platoons and begun squad tactical exercises. Cadets followed the crawl, walk, run phases of training to better understand the tactics and leadership skills needed to lead soldiers. On the final day of training the cadets were challenged with a squad crucible. All four squads competed against each other to win the crucible and be the first squad to finish all obstacles throughout the training area. The completion of the crucible concluded the Leadership Training Exercise. All cadets who participated in the weekend received pertinent training which will be used throughout their army careers.



Red Cross Certification

UNI cadets received a Red Cross Certification during lab on Wednesday, 29 October. Michele Delvin, Professor of Health Promotion and Education, Mark Grey, Professor of Anthropology, and Daniel Yehieli, Cadet Battalion Commander, all from the University of Northern Iowa led the cadets through Disaster Management Training which the Red Cross personnel use to measure the damage natural disasters have on families and structures. They also shared the own experiences with the Red Cross and how rewarding it is to help those in need. Cadets had the opportunity to sign up and volunteer for the local Red Cross after the completion of the training.

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GAFPB

UNI ROTC cadets competed for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Ames, Iowa. The badge is earned by competing in a three day grueling competition that measures muscular strength, endurance, and stamina coupled with pistol marksmanship. Three different levels of this award are presented to competitors bronze, silver, and gold. Of the six cadets representing the University of Northern Iowa at the GAFPB competition, three achieved the highest standard—

Gold (Cadet Jack Dee, Cadet Taylor Julander, Cadet Catherine Maher) and three achieved Silver (Cadet Blake Fiferlick, Cadet Jacob Johnson, and Cadet Dustin Smith).



Panther Battalion Ranger Challenge

The University of Northern Iowa Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets participated in the annual Ranger Challenge competition October 17-19th at Camp Dodge, Iowa. UNI had two Ranger Challenge Teams with nine cadets each competing in an exhausting weekend of physically and mentally demanding events. A total of 23 teams from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas converged on Camp Dodge to compete in Ranger Challenge which is considered the “varsity sport” of Army ROTC. The weekend consisted of various events including: a one rope bridge, obstacle courses, technical and tactical Army knowledge exercises, land navigation, Army Physical Fitness Test, and finished with a 10k ruck march. Both UNI teams placed in the top half of all teams with one team placing in the top third. Cadet Charles Boateng received an award for having the highest Army Physical Fitness Test with a total score of 378. Cadet Daniel Yehieli was recognized for providing first aid to a member of another Ranger Challenge team from Kansas during the ruck march. This year was UNI ROTC’s best performance in over four years at the Ranger Challenge competition.

Waterloo East High JROTC

UNI ROTC cadets reached out to the Junior ROTC program at Waterloo East High School. UNI cadets led three Friday physical training classes for the junior cadets. The classes included muscular training, teamwork and challenging games. The UNI cadets were able to answer questions the junior cadets had about senior ROTC, college, and life after high school. UNI plans to continue the partnership with East High in the Spring



Kenneth Voorhees, Blake Fiferlick, Taylor Julander, Tyrei Lofton, Cameron Griffith.

UNI Annual 5K Zombie Run/Walk

UNI ROTC and University of Northern Iowa Supporters of the United States Army (UNISUSA) hosted their first Zombie Run on the campus of UNI. The 5k Zombie Run/Walk took place on Friday, 31 October. Students, faculty, and community members participated in the event. The participants encountered zombies along the trail and tried to avoid losing their balloons (lives) throughout the course. The first male and female runner to make it to the finish line won a 3 month membership to Kosama. The Zombie Run will return next year.



Veteran's Week



Daniel Yehieli, Cadet Battalion Commander, leads the platoon during the flag raising ceremony.

UNI ROTC held several events during Veteran's week. On Veteran's day UNI ROTC held a flag raising ceremony to honor veterans. The University of Northern Iowa's President Bill Ruud, faculty members and service men and women attended the event.

UNI ROTC held a Battalion 5k Run around campus which was open to anyone who wanted to participate. LTC Behn, commander of the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2ABCT, 3ID, joined the cadets for the run while visiting the campus for veteran's week.



Contact Us

Alumni of the UNI ROTC Program, we want to hear from you! The UNI ROTC Program is always updating our Alumni Contact Roster. Please send us your current contact information and share this newsletter with your classmates to ensure we reach everyone. Alumni will be featured in each newsletter if you want to be featured let us know!

Information can be sent to
Debbie Ackerson at
Debra.Ackerson@uni.edu

Military Science Fund for Excellence

To support our future leaders please consider giving to the Military Science Fund for Excellence.

To make a contribution go to the website listed below:

<http://www.uni-foundation.org/>

On the right hand side click on "Make an online gift." To ensure your donation goes to the Panther Battalion you will need to enter *Military Fund for Excellence* in the "Other" box near the bottom of the form.

**Thank you for your
continued support!**

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Cadet Taylor Julander shake LTC Keith's hand while accepting an award.

Awards Ceremony

The University of Northern Iowa's Fall ROTC Awards Ceremony was on 10 December 2014 from 3-5pm at the AMVETS Post 49 of Cedar Falls, Iowa. The men and women recognized have invested a tremendous amount of time to excel in academics, physical training, and leadership excellence. Their dedication to the core values of Army ROTC have set them apart from their peers and their commitment to service is highly commendable.

The 300 APFT award was presented to the cadets who scored over 300 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test. The test is divided into three categories. Two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a 2-mile run. Cadets Lucas Tener, Cameron Griffith, Taylor Julander achieved this standard.

The next awards were presented to the cadets who competed in the fall Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The Cadets were tested and graded on land navigation skills, the Army Physical Fitness test, basic military soldiering skills, and a 10km Ruck March over the course of a weekend. The UNI Ranger Challenge team placed 6th overall out of 19 male teams that represented their task force. Cadets Cameron Griffith, Thomas Madsen, Christopher McIntyre, Lucas Tener, Daniel Yehieli, Mark Wieneke, Sophia Sperrazzo, Michael Casey, Omar Martinez, and John Castor.



Swearing In

Jacob Johnson, Colin Johnson, Taylor Julander, Tyler Christy and Dustin Smith took their oath to join the ROTC program on 15 NOV.



Cadet of the Semester

Cadets were nominated by their instructors and evaluated by the upperclassmen. The Cadet of the Semester must be knowledgeable in the following areas; Current Events, Uniforms, Leadership, Chain of Command, Army History, Drill and Ceremony, First Aid, Customs and Courtesies, and Physical Fitness. The Cadet of the Semester competes against other Cadets from their class and the other military science classes. The overall winner is Michael Casey.

Fall Commissioning Ceremony 2014



UNI ROTC held the Fall Commissioning Ceremony on December 20, 2014 at Seerly Hall. Three Cadets took the Oath of Office and commissioned as Second Lieutenants. Guest Speaker, Dean Brenda Bass, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences led the ceremony with words of wisdom for the new officers. After the Oath of Office the Lieutenants families were welcomed to come on stage and pin on the new rank. Finally, the lieutenants took part in the Silver Dollar Salute, to the Non-commissioned Officer who had the most impact on their military career. Congratulations to 2LT Michael Dornbusch (Army Reserves), 2LT Nathan Knebel (National Guard) and 2LT Margaret Maher (Active Duty).





ROTC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Colonel Thomas (Tom) A. Duncan II

Colonel Tom Duncan was commissioned from the University of Northern Iowa as a Chemical Corps Officer in December, 1991. He holds a Masters of Science in Environmental Management from Webster University, a Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies from Kansas State University, and a Masters in Military Art and Science from the Army Command and General Staff College. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies. Colonel Duncan is currently serving as an Army War College Fellow at George Mason University.

1. What advice do you have for cadets?

I expect my Lieutenants to be technically and tactically competent; understanding that you still have a lot to learn during your tenure as a junior officer. Take advantage of everything the University of Northern Iowa and your R.O.T.C. program have to offer. Report to your first unit as prepared as possible and ready to keep learning. Second, always remember to take care of your Soldiers and their families and they will take care of you! Finally, living the Army values and treating everyone with dignity and respect is critical. You have to set the example for your Soldiers!

2. What lessons have you learned from UNI ROTC?

One of the most important lessons I learned as an MS III and IV was how to plan and execute training. Part of taking care of your Soldiers is ensuring they are properly trained. It takes a highly trained and cohesive team to accomplish missions in a complex environment. Take advantage of every training opportunity for yourself and your Soldiers. You never have enough time and resources...so don't squander any opportunity!

3. What is your favorite memory from your UNI ROTC career?

The people. We had fun and genuinely enjoyed overcoming challenges together. I stay in touch with several of my friends today.